No 757 March 14, 2004



# THE FUNDAY TIMES

**Mini drivers**
Funday puts its foot to the floor, circuit driving the new Mini Cooper
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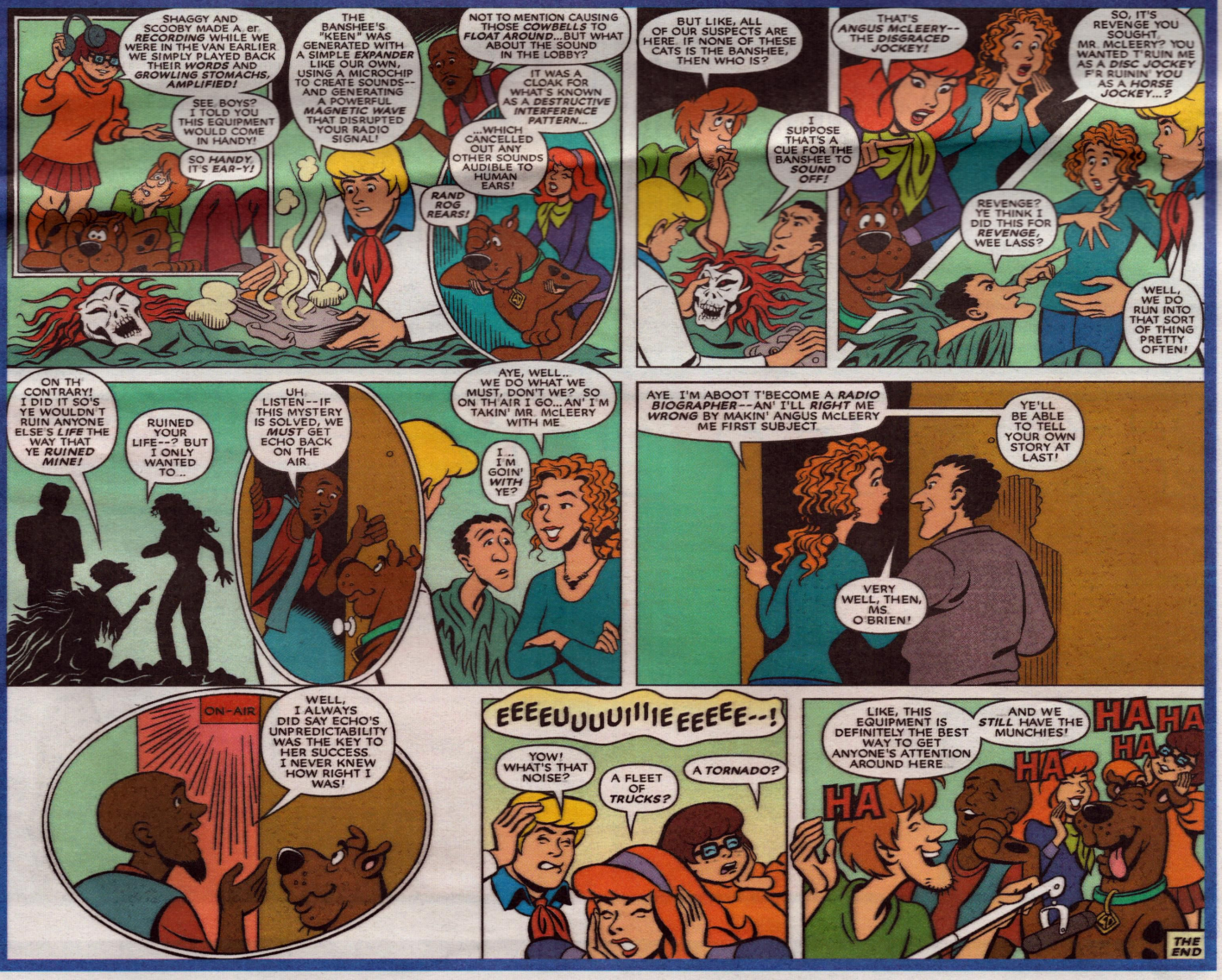
**Jamelia judges**
We say "thank you" to Jamelia as she helps us out in our Easter badge comp
Page 9

**Ready to play**
Bag an Xbox and two top games, if you're a Prize Haul winner this week
Page 11

## SCOOBY-DOO! in SCREECHY KEEN

The story so far – The wailing banshee that's terrorising the radio station is about to get a taste of its own medicine

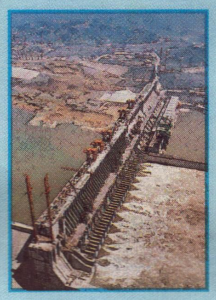


# 7 DAYS

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD THIS WEEK

## TODAY

It's Pi Day in America, a national celebration of the most famous mathematical ratio – calculated by dividing a circle's circumference by its diameter. Pi is a transcendental number, which means that it cannot be calculated to perfect precision and actually goes on for ever, but to 20 decimal places it's 3.14159265358979323846 • People around the world whose lives are affected by dams will be taking part in today's International Day of Action Against Dams & for Rivers, Water & Life



## TUESDAY

As part of its British Journey series, Royal Mail issues stamps featuring landscapes in Northern Ireland • Friends and colleagues of theatre and TV actor Denis Quilley, who died last year, gather at the National Theatre in London to share memories • J K Rowling is among the shortlisted authors in the WHSmith People's Choice Awards, the results of which are announced today. Nominations were gathered from the public via the internet and then assessed by a panel of judges that includes Holiday presenter Craig Doyle, Linda Barker and Sarah, Duchess of York

## WEDNESDAY

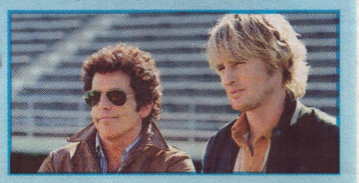
People around the world celebrate the feast day of St Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland • The Affordable Art Fair opens in Battersea Park, London, with prices ranging from £50 to £2,500 • Your Face or Mine presenter Jimmy Carr is among the comedians taking part in the Glasgow Comedy Festival, with 150 performances taking place at venues across the city over the next fortnight

## THURSDAY

Soul superstar, and queen of Motown, Diana Ross plays a gig at Wembley Arena • Girls aged 10 to 15 are encouraged to accompany an adult to work on Take Our Daughters to Work Day. The initiative is designed to widen girls' career ambitions and expectations beyond traditional roles

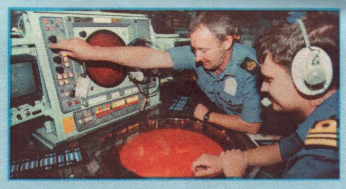
## FRIDAY

International Scouse Day celebrates all things Liverpudlian to raise money for the city's Alder Hay Children's Hospital • Spoof movie remake of 1970s TV cop show Starsky & Hutch, starring Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson [below], hits cinemas



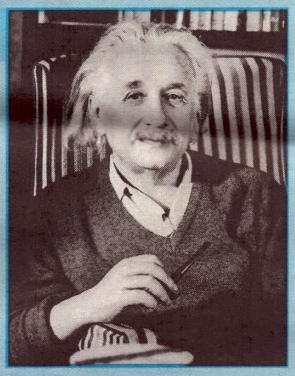
## SATURDAY

The first practical radar tests were carried out by Rudolf Kuhnold 70 years ago today. He succeeded in receiving signals bounced off the battleship Hesse at a distance of 550m • Global Protest day sees anti-war demonstrations taking place around the world to mark the anniversary of the invasion of Iraq • The Soul Train Music Awards take place at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, California. Last year, LL Cool J, Mariah Carey and Nelly picked up awards



## MONDAY

Tube stations around London participating in the Faces and Places exhibition start displaying poetry and images created by the public • Hungarian Commemorative Day marks the outbreak of revolution and the country's war of independence in 1848-49 • To celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Einstein [right], it's National Ideas Week, when employers should encourage fresh ideas from the workforce • The 19th annual Rock And Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony takes place at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York



# FEATHER BOY

**Nicky Singer's fantastic Feather Boy novel is now a CBBC series. We meet young actor Thomas Sangster who plays bullied hero, Norbert No-Bottle**

*What attracted you to playing the role of Norbert?*
I haven't played anyone like that before. He's a totally different character, I'm nothing like him in really life. Norbert's very timid and shy. He's also a victim as he gets bullied. But he's quite sweet, really, and has to deal with a lot of things.

*Have you ever been bullied?*
No, I'm not the type of person who gets bullied. I've never really been bullied in my life. None of my friends has been either.

*Were you a fan of the book?*
No, I hadn't read the book before. But I met the author recently and she said I'd captured Norbert just right. I'm not really a bookworm, but I am quite good at drawing.

*Do you find it easy acting alongside stars such as Liam Neeson [in Love Actually] and Sheila Hancock [who plays Edith Sorrell in Feather Boy]?*
Yes ... once I've met them and know who they are I usually get along with them and we become friends. You forget who they are, really.

*How is working on a blockbuster film different from working on a television series?*
The atmosphere is different. On a film, there are more crew, more make-up people, and it feels a lot bigger when you are there. I wouldn't say the food in the canteen was any better, though.

*Do you have a favourite scene from Feather Boy?*
I'm not sure until I've seen all of it because sometimes scenes can end up completely different from how you expected. I enjoyed filming the scene where Norbert falls over a high platform. We used wires so I got to float around. It was fun even though the harness did dig in.

**Feather Boy starts on Tuesday, at 4.55pm, on BBC1**

COVER CARTOON: SCOOBY-DOO AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © HANNA BARBERA (S04)

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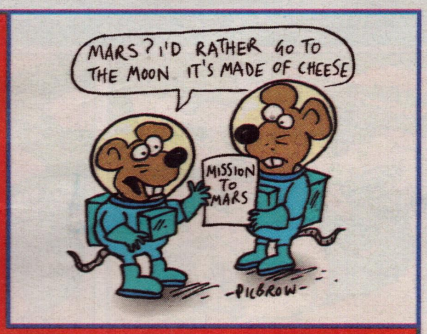
FUNDAY

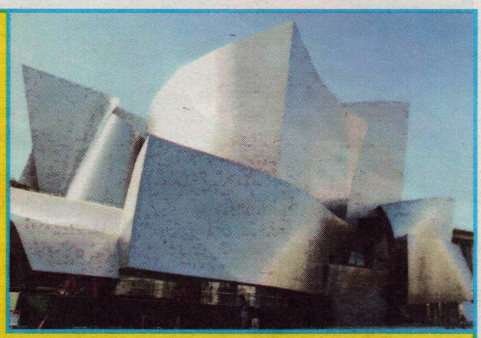
# NEWS

## Mice on Mars



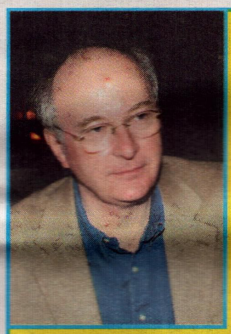

Scientists are relying on rodents to prepare mankind for a possible human mission to Mars. The "mouse-onauts" are to be launched sometime in 2006, and will spend five weeks in low Earth orbit [the longest any animal has been in space] before parachuting back to Earth in a bid to discover the effects of low gravity in Mars on the human body. The US and Australian space researchers have announced that it would be a chance to see just what humans could be capable of doing while on the Martian surface.

## Hot show



**Residents living near the new Walt Disney Concert Hall, in Los Angeles, are getting hot under the collar ... and everywhere else! Made of stainless steel, the £147m music venue has shiny walls, which are reflecting sunlight into nearby homes. One local has complained that her rooms are now 15C warmer than before and that she has to keep the air conditioning on 24 hours a day. Architects on the project have been recalled to come up with a cooling solution to the problem, which could include a mesh blanket cover as a temporary measure. A more permanent solution might be to sandblast the shiny metal so that it no longer reflects the sun.**

## Book a place



**Oxford is hosting some of the top names in children's literature during The Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival between March 23-28. The amazing line up of authors scheduled to appear includes Phillip Pullman [left], Anthony Horowitz, Mark Haddon and the most borrowed author in the UK, Jacqueline Wilson. Other highlights for youngsters includes the Oxford literary treasure quiz, which takes visitors around the city centre which is home to fictional characters like Alice in Wonderland and Bilbo Baggins.**
**For more details and ticket information, click on www.sundaytimes-oxfordliteraryfestival.co.uk**

THE SUNDAY TIMES
Oxford Literary Festival

## Sleighing them

While many things in the UK come to a halt with the smallest amount of snow, someone who's speeding his way through the white stuff is Kristan Bromley. The 31-year-old engineer designed his own bobsleigh and beat the rest of the world at the recent skeleton bobsleigh world cup, in Germany. Kristan's newly-designed sleigh is the size of a large baking tray, has two handles and no brakes. Kristan says he's ready to represent Britain at the Winter Olympics.

## Beagle eyed?

A mystery that has baffled historians for 130 years could finally be solved. A team of marine archeologists believe they have located the remains of HMS Beagle – the ship in which British naturalist Charles Darwin sailed around the world, performing various scientific experiments in the 1830s. The alleged wreckage of the ship has been tracked by sophisticated radar technology to a site beneath marshes in Essex. "We can see the outline of a dock for the ship and can make out wood and metal, which is highly suggestive that there is something substantial down there, probably the bottom of the Beagle," says Dr Robert Prescott [right] of the Beagle Ship Research Group.

## Emperor's rule

Rumours of a British Roman emperor more than 2,000 years ago appear to be based on fact. Domitianus was always thought to be a hoax, until a metal detector enthusiast found a hoard of Roman coins in an Oxfordshire field featuring the ancient leader's head – just how you would see Queen Elizabeth II on coins today. The British Museum is now convinced the coin is proof that Domitianus ruled the lands of Britain, France and parts of Germany in AD270. "So little is known of Domitianus that some scholars seriously doubted his existence. This new discovery makes it certain that the shadowy claimant to the imperial throne was real," says the museum's Roman coins curator, Richard Abdy.

PICTURES: REUTERS/LUCY NICHOLSON/DAVID BEBBER AP/MATTHIAS RIETSCHEL, SIMON WILKINSON

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# MINI ADVENTURE

**Paul Wray and Claire Sheldon from Team Funday see if their driving skills are up to ... The Italian Job!**

*Funday's Claire and Paul*

Action film The Italian Job – starring Mark Wahlberg, Charlize Theron and Edward Norton – is a crime caper full of nerve-shredding car chases and stunts. All these action-packed scenes from the movie involve the cool Mini Cooper car – but how easy would it be to recreate the driving drama? Funday's deputy ed Paul and picture ed Claire joined a Mini Mayhem day at Prestwold Hall, near Loughborough in Leicestershire, to see if their steering skills could put them in the movies.

Upon arrival at the former airfield at Prestwold Hall, the first thing to do is to step into a jump suit and attend the essential safety briefing where all the drivers are told how to behave around the 3km circuit. Graham Nash tells the expectant racers how to approach the track's three corners and complex – a series of zigzags. He explains that each of the corners has a brake and turn sign at the side to aid drivers, and a cone at the inside and outside of the corner to represent the apex [start] and exit of each turn. "Smooth acceleration, balancing the throttle and braking smoothly are the keys to circuit driving," Graham advises.

Each new Mini driver is accompanied by an experienced Motor Sport Association driving instructor. They can offer tips from the passenger seat, based on their seven years of training, but as Graham points out to everybody taking part: "Ultimately, you are in control!"

Before heading to the circuit, Claire and Paul take the Mini autotest – a tricky course to challenge the precision of your driving to the max. Instructor John Ford walks everybody through the course first, which involves: weaving in and out of cones, driving through a corrugated iron tunnel, reversing into a parking space, getting out of the car and piecing together a jigsaw, back into the car, over a ramp and across the finishing line. It's a tough test against the clock ... which Claire finishes in 4 min 21 sec before Paul, after finally finding the reverse gear, beats her with a speedy 3 min 48 sec.

Next, the Mini drivers must find themselves a crash helmet to take to the track. Peter Felix Senior takes each driver for a three-circuit spin, talking about each corner and straight and demonstrating when to brake, turn and accelerate.

Then it's time to swap seats and for Funday's Claire and then Paul to have their own Mini adventure.

The Funday drivers both report that it's exhilarating, if slightly scary at first, but they enjoy the thrill of racing their cars around the circuit. Peter gives Claire and Paul each a personal performance mark sheet ... and both get top marks! Claire's assessment says: "A very relaxed driver, worked hard and found smooth racing lines – 95%." Paul's comments are equally impressive: "Great lines from the start, smooth on braking, has the right approach to circuit driving – 96%."

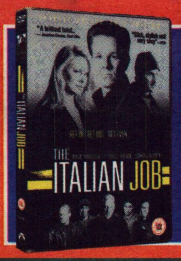
Finally, it's time to experience the real thing as race driver Peter Felix [son of Peter Felix Senior] zooms up in the Mini Cooper S – a souped up model. This is the real racing experience with 160kph turns, burning rubber and screeching tyres.

While the car seems to be at the edge, Peter remains cool and calm throughout the thrashing drive, explaining his braking and gear changing. But what about his Funday passengers? Claire loves the last-minute braking at break-neck speeds while Paul looks uncomfortable – he's seen clinging on to the door handle and heard giggling nervously.

While it may not be the stuff of a Hollywood movie, the Funday crew enjoyed the driving experience and return to the office with their pass certificates.

## MINI PARTS

- During the filming of The Italian Job, 32 customised stunt Mini Coopers were used. The climax is the thrilling chase down LA's Hollywood Boulevard and LA Metro Line
- Oscar-winning star of The Italian Job, Charlize Theron was the best Mini driver, beating the film's two boys. "Charlize was better than both of us," says co-star Jason Statham. "She was so confident that she was doing these 390° spins and nailing them every time."
- The Italian Job is a remake of a 1969 film starring Michael Caine ... and old-style Mini Coopers



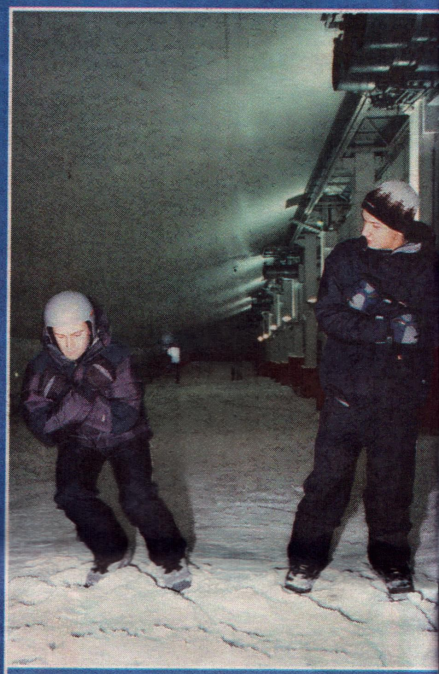

The Italian Job [cert 12] is out now to buy on DVD [£19.99] and VHS [£14.99]

PICTURES: JAMIE HUGHES

# THE FUNDAY

**Can Disney Channel presenter Nigel Mitchell pass the very first Funday Challenge – learning t**

**1** Nigel has never been skiing or snowboarding before but he's very excited. "It looks like a cool thing to do, and skiers will hate me for saying this, but it's a little bit cooler than skiing," he admits. We take Nigel to meet top snowboard tutor James Maslin at Xscape, in Milton Keynes. First stop, to don waterproof clothing and to check the board fits.



**4** Without using a board, James shows Nigel how to bend his knees in order to balance properly. Balance is crucial on the slopes to help control direction and movement.

**2** Instructor James says you should always wear a helmet on the indoor and outdoor slopes – he didn't once and managed to crack his head open. Ouch!

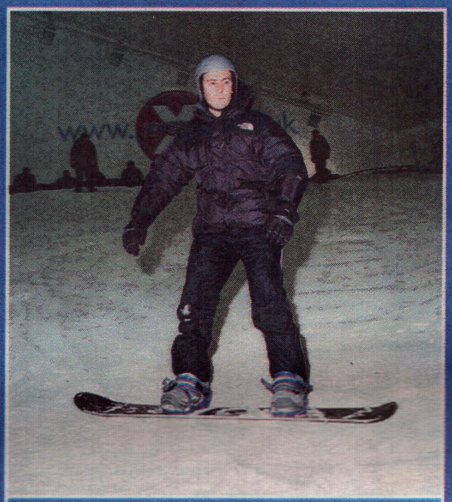
**3** Nigel might be a ski slope novice, but he used to skateboard. "I couldn't do many skills on it. I could balance on it and just about do a 360˚ spin," he recalls. "I could never do an ollie but I did roll over my thumb once which took off the nail."

**5** Next, it's time to learn how to fall both backwards and forwards on the snow.

**6** Nigel attaches his snowboard and learns to go down the slope backwards, while trying to move in a straight line. "This is hard," he chuckles. "You have to remember to dig your toes into the snow because they are basically your brakes."

# CHALLENGE

snowboard? Marie-Claire Giddings takes Nigel to Xscape in Milton Keynes to put him to the test



**7** "James came down with me first and then I did it on my own which was quite scary," Nigel grins. "But it's a great feeling once you get to the bottom."

**8** Nigel proves to be a bit of a natural and he boasts that he's enjoying the Funday Challenge. "It was fantastic, much better than I thought it would be. It's one of those things that you see people do and you think it must be easy but when you get to the top of the slope it is a bit scary. I was quite nervous, most things you can control with your hands but obviously you use your feet with this. It was like learning something completely new. I might come back for lessons and then one day I will be able to go with my friends."

## NIGEL'S REPORT

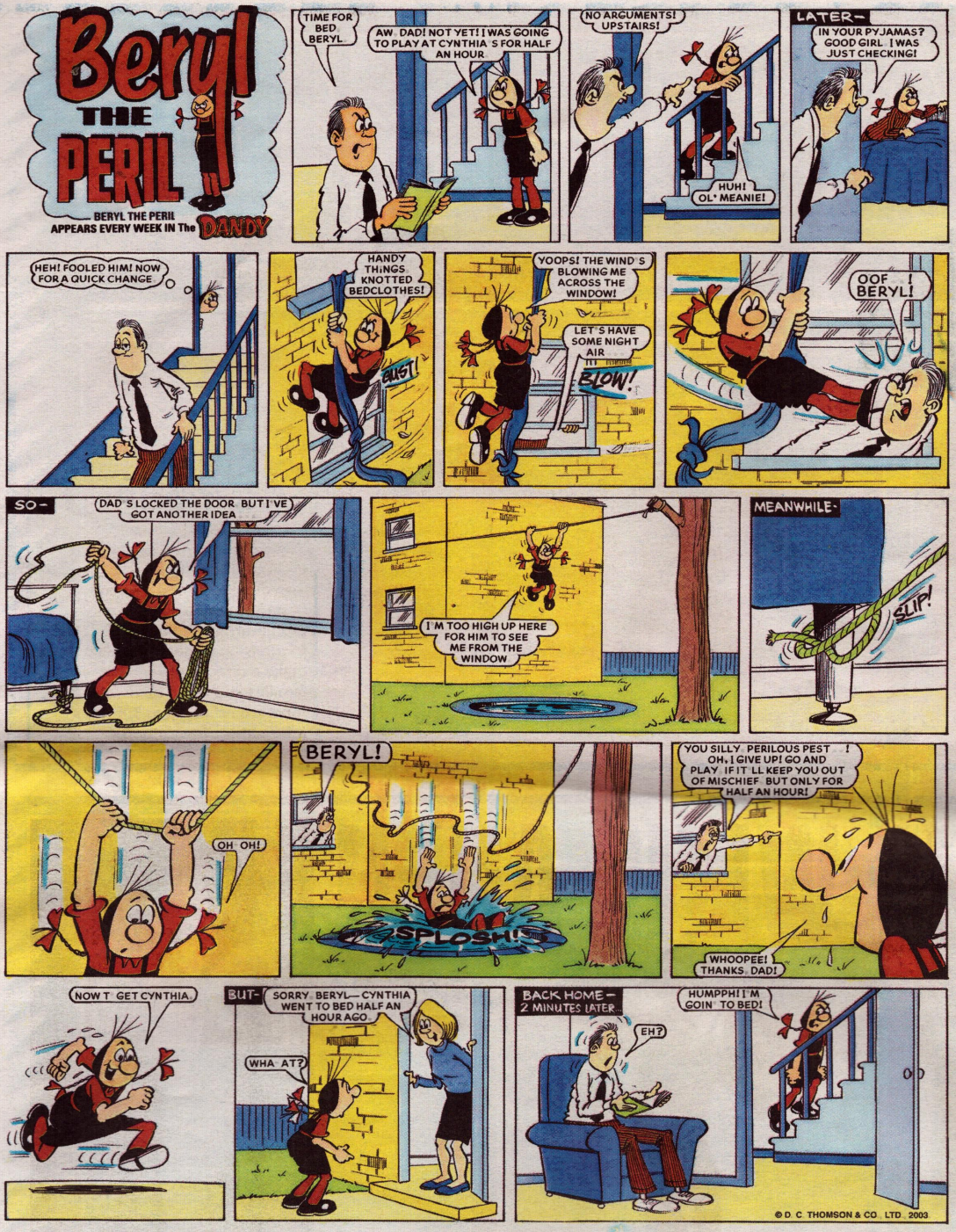
*So, James, what did you think of Nigel?*
He was good. It's always the first lesson where people decide if they like it or not and he picked it up really quickly – and he looked quite confident coming down the slope at the end. He's got good balance and he handled himself well and he fell over maybe three times throughout the lesson, which is nothing. I'd say it would take him two more lessons at the most.
*Any tips for him to work on?*
The main ones are body posture, keeping your knees bent is a strong one because you use those as your springs to absorb any bumps and keeping your weight forward when you learn to turn. He has to be careful of dropping his heel and toe edge – that's why he fell over. You've got to have concentration all the time.
***Most importantly, did Nigel pass the Funday Challenge?***
Yes, he did a good job and I was very impressed.

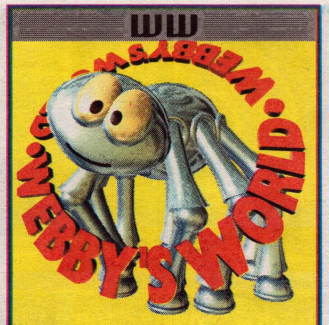
PASS ✓

## THE EXPERT

**Name:** James Maslin. **Age:** 19. **Qualifications:** "You need to be confident to teach but the actual qualifications I have are an Indoor Qualification from the Snowsport Scotland Council which I did here at Xscape. That allows me to teach people indoors or on artificial slopes. The other one I have is from the British Association of Snowsports Instructors, so I can teach anywhere in the world apart from France."
**James says:** "I started in April 1998 and I've been teaching for just over a year. You have to have to have at least five year's experience before you can start teaching – that's a lot of time on the slopes! If you're considering snowboarding, anything to do with balance will help you. Gymnastics, windsurfing, surfing, skate-boarding and skating are all great, although, when you're surfing you tend to surf on your back foot and in snowboarding you board on your front foot."

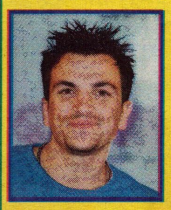
Xscape is in Milton Keynes and Castleford. Lessons start from £22, to book call 0871 222 5670 or click on www.xscape.co.uk




**www.peterandre.com**

From out of nowhere, well the Australian jungle really, Peter Andre has become the current man of the moment. This hastily-constructed site will fill you in on the man and his music. Some of us remain baffled as to what all the fuss is about, while others will gasp in wonder at just how he gets his six-pack stomach. It's your choice.



PICTURE: PA/IAN WEST

**www.redhousechildrensbookaward.co.uk**

Log on, choose your favourite short-listed read and vote online in the Red House Children's Book Award. The books in with a shout this year include Michael Morpurgo's Private Peaceful, Jacqueline Wilson's Lola Rose and Lirael by Garth Nix. It's the award the authors love to win because you, the reader, decides the winner!

If you are a webhead and have discovered a great site, or have created one of your own, spin me a mail and tell me all about it on webby@sunday-times.co.uk

## FRESH!

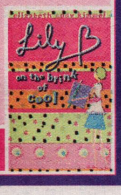
### JET SET RADIO ★★★★★

Jet Set Radio was originally on the Sega Dreamcast [remember that?] and the game has now been reincarnated for the GBA. Thanks to its original cool concept – you are a rebellious street skater, tagging and spraying your way through a fictional Japanese city – it is well worth a second chance. The landscapes and character look great and the game modes [out tag, turf war, tricky] are inventive. Tune in and drop out with Jet Set Radio for something brilliantly different.

**GAME BOY ADVANCE**

### LILY B ON THE BRINK OF COOL by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel ★★★★★

The diary style is a well-used way for writing books for girls. Lily B is written as a journal but thanks to energetic writing and fast, funny entries, it's a cut above the usual reads. Lily is an American teen just dying to escape her family's humdrum life, craving a glamourous life in publishing. Poignant in places, Elizabeth Cody Kimmel has an aspiring, cool way of writing that many girls will find appealing while mirroring a lot of what they're feeling. Lily B+!




**BOOK**

### TONY HAWK'S BOOM BOOM HUCKJAM ★★★★★

Tony Hawk's Boom Boom HuckJam was a massive concert-style showcase for the skate great and 11 other stars of the BMX, skate and moto X world which toured America in 2003. This DVD [£15.99] is a great insight into how this massive undertaking took place, from the huge custom-build halfpipe to the lighting, video and music – it's big air action on a large scale. Feel the energy and dedication of these athletes and see the hard work they underwent. Rad, man!

**DVD**



Check out our new-look reviews and previews next week!

# WEAR IT OUT!

**Buy an Easter badge from GapKids or babyGap to help baby charity Tommy's – they were designed by you!**

PICTURE: JAMIE HUGHES

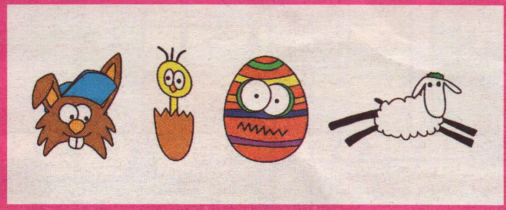
Last year, Funday readers were asked to get involved with the GapKids and babyGap campaign to raise £30,000 for Tommy's, the baby charity. We set the task for you to get creative and design an Easter badge that could be sold through GapKids and babyGap stores, with the proceeds of sales contributing to the campaign target.

The idea of designing badges obviously appealed to Funday fans because our post bag was soon bulging with colourful artistic designs. The standard of entries was high and it was down to a judging panel that included R&B star Jamelia and Funday ed Dave Coombs [left] to decide upon the winners.

"I am really impressed with the drawings – and most of them can draw better than me," chuckled Jamelia. "I am actually the worst artist in the world when it comes to drawing!"

But despite her lack of painting and drawing skills, Jamelia has a keen eye for style and knew immediately what would work well on the Easter badges. "There are lots of good designs here but I'm looking for something bright and happy that is quite simple too," explained the Superstar singer.

Simplicity was the key to success, because the badges will be quite small and need to look good from a distance. Unfortunately, many intricate creations which had obviously taken hours to complete could not be picked as winners for this very reason. The judges also had to select designs with a badge-friendly shape – which meant not too many spikes, limbs or jagged edges.



After much deliberation, the judges agreed upon four lucky winners, whose designs make perfect Easter badges. The winning designs are:

Raving Rabbit by Ruth Dunn, 13, from St Andrews, Fife
Cute Chick by Lauren Mercer, 8, from Ottery St Mary, Devon
Eggcentric Egg by Daisy Welsh, 11, from County Tipperary
Leaping Lamb by Ruth Parratt, 6, from Newport, South Wales

The final stage was for Gap's own design team to give the winning drawings tiny tweaks so that they made fabulous metal badges. But the finished versions, which you can see above, needed very little adjustment from the original artwork.

The four winning designs are available from tomorrow in all GapKids and babyGap stores [until April 17], suggested donation £1.

## WHAT IS TOMMY'S?

**Tommy's has a single goal – to save babies' lives. The charity is dedicated to funding research into the causes and prevention of miscarriage, still-birth and premature birth. Gap's fundraising target of £30,000 will make a direct difference to families and could be used to fund projects such as Tommy's information line for two years**

# JOSEPH WITH AN H

**Before H topped the charts with Steps, he dreamed of becoming a musical star. The dream comes true this week when H makes his West End debut in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**

*Hi H, what you been up to since we last spoke to you?*

I gave myself a year to chill out and appreciate what I'd achieved. I knew I wanted to try theatre, but I had to take time to make that decision.

*Is it hard doing musical theatre?*

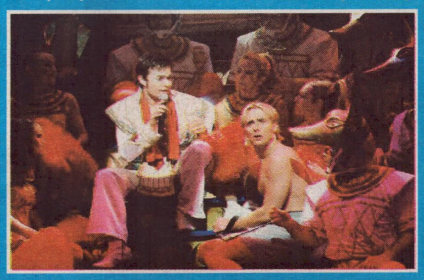
Vocally, it's very tough, and sustaining that is hard work. Plus, when somebody like me goes into the theatre from a pop background, there can be quite a lot of snobbery and people wonder whether I can do it. But this is where I came from originally, doing lots of amateur shows such as Music Man, Anything Goes and West Side Story to name a few. I'm also becoming a mature student at the end of the year.

*What are you going to study?*

I auditioned for the Royal Academy of Music, and got in, so I'm doing the musical theatre course there for a year. I'm really excited about that. I'll graduate in July 2005.

*Were you nervous at the audition?*

Absolutely, because you're being judged and you have to be good at what you do. But thankfully they thought I was good enough to do it.



*Do you have to look after your voice now?*

Well, I'm not turning into Celine Dion, who apparently taps the phone rather than saying "yes" or "no". But there's a lot you do have to do. You need to have enough rest and not party as much.

*How were you before your first night on the West End stage?*

Surprisingly calm in the afternoon, but as the hours ticked by, I got rather nervous. Before a show I go quite quiet and I collect my thoughts before the curtain goes up.

*Is it different singing a story rather than pop songs?*

Yes, Joseph is often played as a bit of a pantomime character, because the script is quite funny and you can ham it up. What I've tried to do is make him believable, a real person who goes through an emotional journey. When you listen to the lyrics, they do mean a lot. They are heartfelt songs, so I try to act them rather than just sing them karaoke-style.

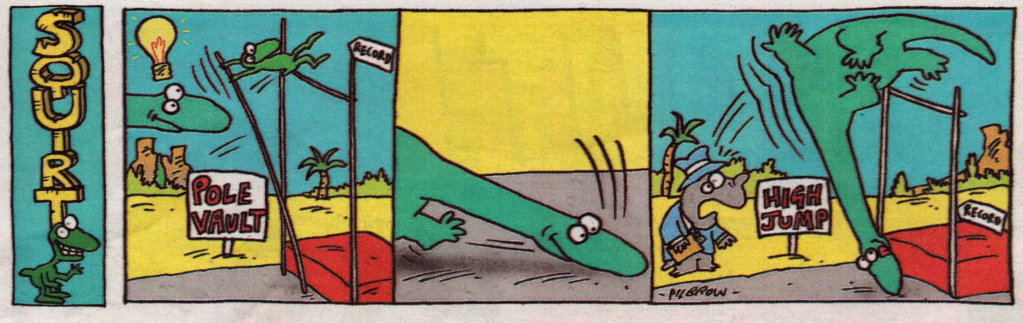
*What are your dream stage roles?*

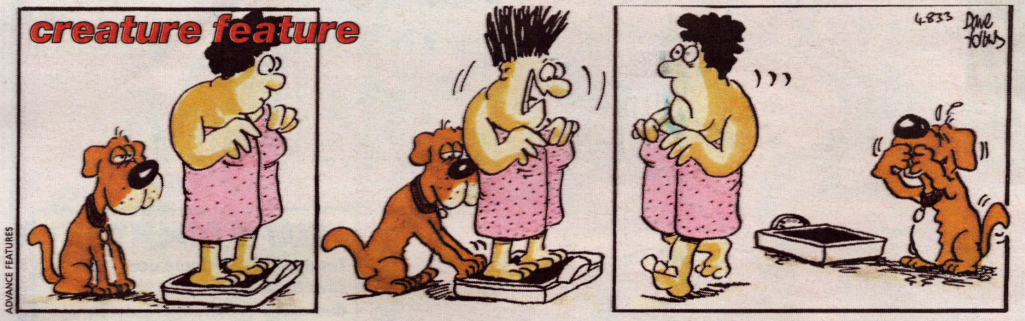
I'd love to play Billy Liar, I'd love to do something really off the wall or something with the RSC maybe, such as playing Lysander in A Midsummer Night's Dream. Just something that nobody would expect.

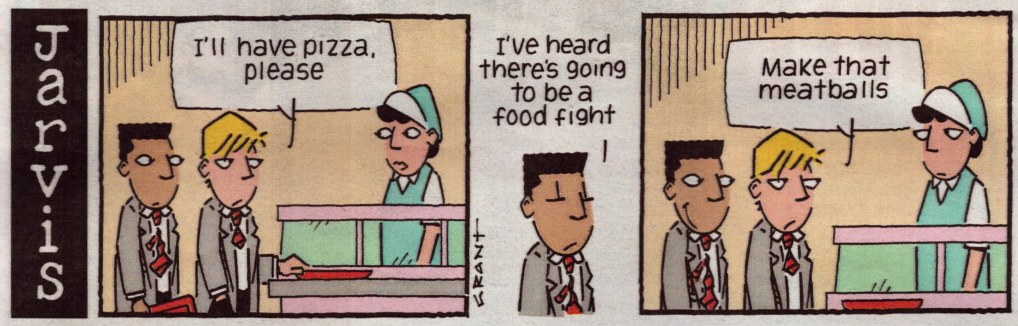
*Will you be called H in future or will you be known as Ian Watkins?*

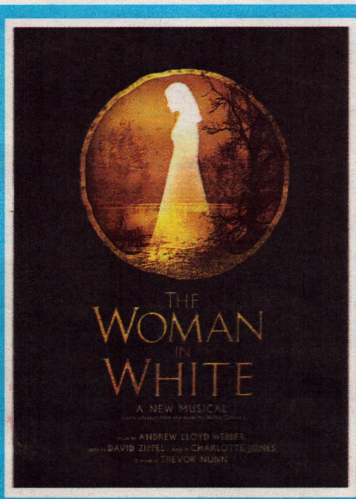
You know, people can call me what they want. I think I'm going to be H Watkins on the posters of Joseph.

**H stars in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at the New London Theatre, Drury Lane, London. For details, call the box office on 0870 890 0141**






## WHITE NIGHTS

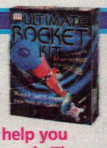
London's Palace Theatre has been home to the musical Les Misérables since 1986, which might like seem like for ever, but that is all about to change. The barricades of Les Miz get packed up next month and moved around the corner to the Queen's Theatre on Shaftesbury Avenue, making room for an exciting new production, The Woman In White.

Based loosely on a Victorian novel by Wilkie Collins, The Woman In White doesn't open until September 15, but the musical is hotly anticipated because it reunites composer Andrew Lloyd Webber with actor Michael Crawford. Michael was last seen in London's West End in 1986, when he made the title role of The Phantom of the Opera his own in Andrew's long-running show. The Woman In White tells the story of a dashing young man who is stranded at a remote railway cutting when, out of the darkness, looms a woman, a mysterious figure dressed in white, desperate to share a chilling secret. What follows is a twisting tale of betrayal and greed, villainy and romance.

For more information about The Woman in White, click on www.womaninwhitethemusical.com

# f-mail

## IN THE KNOW




Leading reference publisher DK and popular internet search engine Google have joined up to help you keep on top of your homework. The fact-packed e.encyclopedia [£25] is full of knowledge to absorb and also links you to safe, secure educational websites. It features nine main subject areas – space, earth, nature, human body, science & technology, people & places, society & beliefs, arts & entertainment and history.

This week's star f-mailer will receive £100 worth of books from the DK catalogue. The other printed f-mailers will receive a copy of DK's e.encyclopedia.

## STAR

**Dear f-mail,**

**I, like many other children in London, like to ride my bike. It's useful if I need to get somewhere and for doing exercise. Unfortunately, due to the lack of cycle paths and heavy traffic, I ride on the pavement. More than once, pedestrians have shouted at me telling me to ride on the road. I would like to do so, but since London provides few cycle paths, I have no choice. Why can't London copy cities in Holland and create more cycle paths? I can assure Ken Livingstone that this would reduce congestion more than issuing a £5 charge!**

**Saul Storm, 14, London**

**Dear f-mail,**

I always read The Funday Times each week and I loved your article on Pop Art [issue 754]. At my school, we have been doing a Pop Art project so I thought I'd draw you a picture. It's not as good as Roy Lichtenstein's but I hope you like it. Kids should see that not all art is arty farty and boring. You can get really cool art like Pop Art.

**Jessica Shearn, 11, address not given**



Dennis and Gnasher are such jokers!

FUNDAY

# PRIZE HAUL

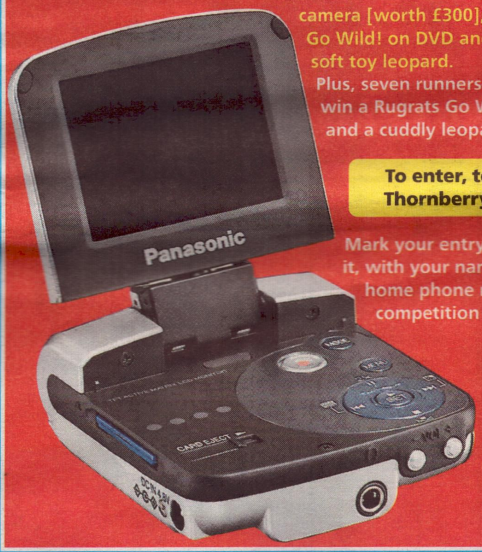
## GET WILD!

Rugrats Go Wild! [cert U] is out now to buy on DVD and VHS. When Tommy and his Rugrat chums are stranded on a desert island the kids do their usual trick of disappearing – except this time it's in the jungle. When they bump into the Thornberry family, the babies think they are saved except without Eliza to help them they could become leopard lunch.

The DVD also features a behind-the-scenes featurette, deleted songs and an alternate ending to the film.

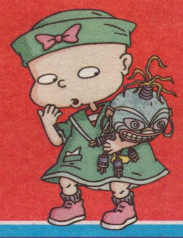
Thanks to Paramount Home Entertainment, five lucky Funday readers will each win a Panasonic SVAV20 digital video camera [worth £300], Rugrats Go Wild! on DVD and a cuddly soft toy leopard.

Plus, seven runners-up will each win a Rugrats Go Wild! DVD and a cuddly leopard.

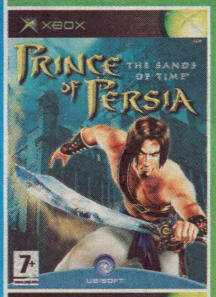


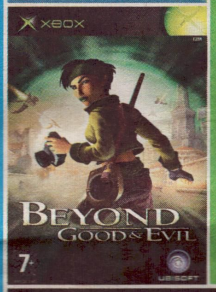

**To enter, tell us Sir Nigel Thornberry's occupation.**

Mark your entry RUGRATS and send it, with your name, age, address and home phone number, to the competition address below.



## WICKED GAMING




Ubisoft has just released two epic adventure titles on the Xbox to get your brain ticking and your thumbs twisting.

From the creator of Rayman, Beyond Good & Evil is a great action game ... which requires a bit of thinking. When the peaceful planet of Hyllis is taken over by an alien race, Jade suspects all is not as it seems and has to get to the core of this invasion, armed only with her camera, aikiado staff and common sense.

Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time takes place in a mysterious exotic world where, as the Prince, you have to fight to recapture the Sands of Time and restore peace to your land.

Ubisoft is offering 10 readers the chance to win an Xbox and a copy of Beyond Good & Evil and Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time, each.

**To enter, tell us which modern-day country used to be called Persia.**

Mark your entry UBISOFT and send it, together with your name, age, address and home phone number, to the competition address below.

Normal TNL competition rules apply to all Funday Times competitions

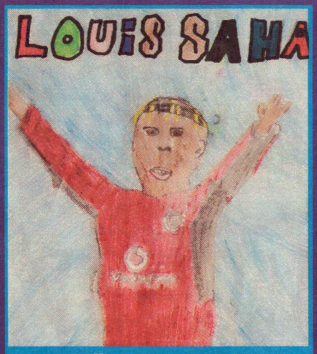
Andrew Croucher, 13, Croydon

Where do frogs fly their flags?
**From tadpoles!**

What newspaper do cats read?
**The Mews of the World!**

What do you get if you cross a chicken with a watch?
**An alarm cluck!**

**Jenna Wallis, 12, St Austell**




William Burton, 12, Haywards Heath

## THE FUNDAY TIMES

**COMPETITIONS**

Send answers to Prize Haul to us at:
The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU95 1AY
or funday.comps@sunday-times.co.uk
[only one e-mail per entrant please]
**Competition deadline: March 24**
Entrants to Funday competitions must be 16 and under

**F-MAIL**

Send your letters, cartoons, jokes and drawings to:
The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX
or funday.times@sunday-times.co.uk

**NOT RECEIVED YOUR PRIZE?**

Please telephone 020 7711 1521 or e-mail
custserv@fundaytimes.co.uk

**GOT A NEWS STORY?**

Please telephone 020 7782 7415
or e-mail funday.news@sunday-times.co.uk

FUNDAY SPORT

# SKATE MATES

**British ice dance champions Sinead and John Kerr are heading to Dortmund, in Germany, for the world figure skating championships, which begin on March 22. Funday Sport chats to the talented Scottish brother and sister**

*How did you first get involved in ice dancing?*

**Sinead:** When I was about seven, my mum took me to the local ice rink. I put on the skates and it just seemed to come naturally. I kept practising, entered competitions, and found that I loved ice dancing with a partner rather than skating on my own.

**John:** When Sinead started skating, I was the little brother who went along to the rink to watch her. A coach saw me and said: "Why don't you give it a shot?" I did and, like Sinead, I found that I loved it.

*What's the difference between ice skating and ice dancing?*

**Sinead:** In ice dancing, you skate with a partner rather than solo, plus it is much more artistic. I think it is more entertaining for an audience because we can do lifts and use pop music with vocals.

*Do you argue much?*

**Sinead:** Not that much. Because he's my brother, I can say what I think without hurting his feelings.

**John:** Maybe if we'd started dancing together when we were younger, we might have had childish rows. We do argue, if one of us gets something wrong, but we're mature enough to say sorry.

*Have either of you had any injuries?*

**Sinead:** Nothing major, we haven't landed on our heads or anything! You do get a few bumps and bruises if you fall over, but you have to expect that when you're doing a sport that involves lifts and tricky moves.

*Are you looking forward to the world figure skating championships?*

**John:** It's the first time we've entered this competition, but we did very well in the European championships in January. We came 10th, which is the first time a British couple have been in the top 10 since Torvill and Dean in 1994.

*What will you be doing in the competition?*

**John:** There's a compulsory dance section where all the dancers have to do the same steps so that the judges can see how good you are technically. Then we have to do a jive routine to music they've chosen but with our own choreography, and finally there's the free dance where we can do what we like to any four-minute song we choose. For that we've chosen the music from The Matrix.

*How do you rate your prospects?*

**John:** We're very confident. We made a bit of an impact in the European championships, so that has inspired us. This time we'll be competing against ice dancers from all over the world rather than just Europe, though, so it will be tougher. We just want to do the best we can. The way our sport works, you can't just go in and win medals. It takes a lot of practice to get to the top.

*Any advice for wannabe ice dancers?*

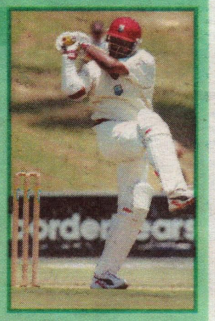
**Sinead:** As John says, you have to be prepared to practise. We train for around four hours most days, plus we also go the gym to build up our strength and do aerobics to build up our stamina. If you're starting out at a young age, you shouldn't worry if you can't do all the moves straight away. With practice and dedication you'll get there in the end.

**For more information on the world figure skating championships, click on www.worlds2004.de**

# FIXTURE LIST

Your guide to the week's sporting action

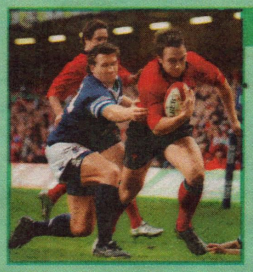
## FRIDAY



### Second Test, West Indies v England

**Brian Lara will be looking for runs in this Test as the West Indian star is playing on his home island of Trinidad. However, the Queen's Park Oval, in Port of Spain, has not been the happiest running-scoring grounds for Brian against England – with his highest score being a modest-for-him 55. Live coverage on Sky Sports 2.**

## SATURDAY



### Six Nations, England v Wales

**Consistency is the key word for Wales. They were impressive beating Scotland at home but disappointing in Ireland. Which Wales will turn up at Twickenham? The fiery dragons last beat England in 1999 with a memorable last-gasp try. It's hard to see Wales repeating the feat this year. Watch the game on BBC1, kick-off 4pm.**

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